Adulteration in milk in Delhi

*243. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of synthetic milk is mixed with pure milk and sold in the Capital, which spawn various health problems like asthma, swelling of limbs, heart ailments and cancer;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during the last five years;

(c) the extent to which the sale of adulterated milk was checked; and

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the quantity of adulterated milk sold in the Capital during 1998; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) According to information made available by the Government of NCT Delhi, no instance of mixing of large quantity of synthetic milk with pure milk and selling the same in the Capital has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) During the years 1998 and 1999 (upto February, 1999), 116 samples and 185 samples of milk have been lifted and analysed respectively. Out of these samples, no sample was found to be adulterated due to presence of urea of alleged components of Synthetic Milk.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Gvoernment is aware that synthetic milk is sold in every colony of the Capital at a cheaper rate, in comparison to pure milk; and the lower strata of the society are the worst victims; if so, during the year 1998, what was the number of samples taken of adulterated milk, in each colony in Delhi, how many persons have been booked for adulteration, and, to what extent, the supply of synthetic milk was checked.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, 'whether any case of adulterated milk or mixing of synthetic milk with pure milk and selling the same has been detected during the last five years', this is his main question. A large number of samples have been lifed by the department of PFA in Delhi, but none of them has been found to be adulterated with constituents of socalled synthetic milk. However, we have given the figures for the last five years, but in the year 1999, i.e. up to February, in Delhi itself, the number of samples lifted is around 185, and, out of 185, 26 cases are found to be adulterated. All the samples found adulterated were either in respect of deficiency of fact and SNF, or due to the presence of SMF. That is the position in Delhi.

SHRI AMAR SINGH: I would like to know whether it is also a fact that synthetic milk is prepared by mixing caustic soda, urea, refined oil, salt and starch in proportions. And the lactometer test cannot detect the adulteration. has the Government developed any new kit to detect such adulteration? If it is a fact.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, there is distinct possibility of identifying adulterated milk from synthetic milk. If our hon. friend has anything specific to tell us or to suggest to us the Government is willing to consider that and share the information, and we will go in for further investigation, particularly in respect of certain varieties of milk which are in common use—buffalo milk, cow milk, goat milk, mixed milk, standardised milk, recombined milk, toned milk, double-toned milk. We know about them. But in regard to synthetic milk, so far, we have not come across anything like that. In the Department—I am talking of the country as a whole—we have officials, inspectors, who are carrying on this job regularly, but, so far, we have not come across any incident of synthetic milk in the capital.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Ramji Lal.

श्री रामजीलाल: सर, माननीय मंत्री जी का उत्तर बड़ा ठीक है कि वर्ष 1998-99 और 1999 तक 116 और 185 नमूने उठाए गए तो उसका रिज़ल्ट 100 प्रतिशत बढ़िया रहा। ऐसा भारत में होना गर्व की बात है। महोदय, मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा और मेरे दो क्वश्चन हैं, कि ये किस स्टेट्स के इंसपैक्टर थे और कितने नमूने भरे गए तथा नमूने भरने वाले कौन से कैटेगरी के आफिसर थे? मैं एक बात आपसे हरियाणा की कहूंगा कि हरियाणा में ऐसा होता है कि दूध वाले जो होते हैं वे असली दूध एक डोली में डाल लेते हैं और दूसरा नकली वाले में पानी मिलाते हैं। जब वह इंसपैक्टर टैस्ट करता है तो डोली वाला दूध टैस्ट करके कहता है कि बिल्कुल ठीक है। इस तरह के टैस्ट हरियाणा में होते हैं। अब हरियाणा में तो सिर्फ पानी ही मिलाते हैं, लेकिन यहां तो बड़ी खतरनाक चीज है जो इसमें यूरिया मिलाई जाती है, फिर भी आपके रिज़ल्ट 100 प्रतिशत ठीक है? यह मानने के लिए मैं तैयार नहीं हूं। There is something wrong.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, I appreciate that, and I am really thankful and grateful to the hon. Member who agrees with the facts that we have given. Sir, the main question is confined to Delhi, but I would still reply to his question. In Haryana, we have officials, we have people, to lift certain samples and inspect them and then get back to us with the information. In Haryana, we have 47 whole-time inspectors who are entrusted with this job. sir, we will ask them to see what can be done.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, the milk we are getting here does not seem to be pure milk.

This milk is added with something else. I would like to know whether the Government will institute an inquiry to find out the liquids or other materials that are being mixed in the preparation of milk that is sold in the market. It should also find out whehter any milk added with these materials is in any way harmful to the consumers. The ratio in which these materials are added to the milk should also be gone into. Will the hon. Minister given an assurance that such an attempt will be made.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The present system of checking this adulteration is doing well. Whoever does adulteration doesn't tell us the materials and the ratio in whcih he is adulterating. It is only when we send the samples for testing, that we come to know what type of ingredients the milk contains. I agree with the hon. Member when he says the nobody is getting pure milk in Delhi. But, we have set up a technical committee to check up, consider and give its views and recommendations, particularly with regard to milk and milk products. As soon as it is completed, I will let you know.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Sir, before these city milk scheme came up, milk used to be supplied by private parties. Some of them supplied pure milk, some of them supplied adulterated milk, but you could always get good quality milk at the right price. Ever since these city milk schemes have come up, something funny is happening. These organisations take out something from the milk, fat or whatever it is, and mix water and powder in it. In this process, contamination is always possible, and it seems to be happening. Only recently, the Consumer Education and Research Society tested 28 widely-sold brands of milk distributed in poly packets and found all of them contaminated with health-threatening bacteria. That is the report in the *Times of India*, dated 22nd February. What has the hon. Minister to say in the matter.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, we will collect the information and get it examined.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: What action has been taken on this? Will the Government give an undertaking that those people who want pure milk, whether it is cow's milk or buffalo milk, will get it in the purest form without anything being taken out of or put into it? Will the hon. Minister give a straight assurance?

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पाण्डेय: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रश्न करने से पहले मंत्री जी से एक गुजारिश करना चाहूंगी। महोदय, पिछले दो वर्षों में खासकर गर्मी के मौसम में ऐसे सिंथेटिक दूध की सप्लाई की खबरें अखबारों में आती है फिर भी उत्तर ऐसा दिया गया है जैसे कुछ भी नहीं है और सब कुछ ठीक है, यह खेद की बात है। महोदय, मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि दिल्ली के डिफरेंट इलाकों में दूध किन किन स्रोतों से पहुंचता है, क्या इस की जांच करने की सरकार की कोई योजना है? जो दूध वाले टंकी से दूध ले जाते है, सरकार उस की बिना बताए अचानक सैंपल इकट्ठा कर जांच करने की आने वाली गर्मी में कोई कार्यक्रम बनाने जा रही है? यही मेरा प्रश्न है, धन्यवाद।

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, we accept this suggestion. As I have already said in this House, for milk and milk products, a committee has been constituted, and we will prevail upon the committee to expedite its recommendations. And accordingly, we will proceed.

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने यह बताया है कि सिंथेटिक दूध के बारे में इनके विभाग को कोई बहुत प्रमाण नहीं मिले हैं, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी, दिल्ली अनुसंधान संस्थान के वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि सिंथेटिक दूध पर जब ज्यादा खोजबीन होने लगती है तो उस दूध का पाउडर बनाकर बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा में भेज दिया जाता है और यह सिंथेटिक पाउडर जोकि एक जहरीला दूध का पाउडर है, इस से मिठाई बनाई जा रही है। एक प्रकार से यह जहर विभिन्न रूपों में समाज में फैल रहा है, क्या आप ने इस के बारे में कोई जानकारी प्राप्त की है कि किस-किस प्रदेश में इस सिंथेटिक दूध की मात्रा बढ़ती जा रही है? नंबर दो, चूंकि अब गरमी आने वाली है, गरमी के दिनों में दूध की बहुत कमी हो जाती है और इस कारण गरमी के दिनों में सिंथेटिक दूध की मात्रा बहुत बढ़ जाती है। तो उस सिंथेटिक दूध की मात्रा को कम करने के लिए और उस पर रोक लगाने के लिए क्या आप ने कोई कारगर कदम उठाने की योजना बनाई है?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, I don't have anything to disagree with the hon. Member. if something is coming from neighbouring States to Delhi, this responsibility has been entrusted to the State Government. It is the responsibility of the State Government to lift samples and get them examined and then take steps. The State Government have been entrusted with this responsibility. They have their inspectors also. In Delhi, so many precautionary steps have been taken. In addition to PFA inspectors sub divisonal Magistrates have also been entrusted with this job. The Delhi Health Minister is holding periodical meetings to keep a check on it. Probably he will be able to contain it. He will be able to meet the demands of the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 244—Shri Ramoowalia.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Sir, Question No. 245 is on the same subject. Both these questions may be taken up together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. We will take them together.

नेशनल बोर्ड आन मेडिसिनल प्लान्ट्स

@*244. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:†**
श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंह:

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में नेशनल बोर्ड आन मेडिसिनल प्लान्ट्स नामक एक संस्था, का गठन किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो बोर्ड के ढांचे के संबंध में विस्तृत ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके रख-रखाव एवं कार्यकरण हेतु कितनी वार्षिक राशि आवंटित की गई है, और

(ग) बोर्ड को क्या-क्या जिम्मेदारियां सौंपी गई है?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No Sir.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

@तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 244 और 245 साथ-साथ लिये गये।
†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया द्वारा पूछा गया।